EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE RENEWABLES OBLIGATION (AMENDMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013

SR 2013 NO 116

1. Introduction

1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Assembly.

1.2 The powers under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 (as read with paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 to that Act) are used to make Article 27 of this Statutory Rule: The remainder of the Rule is made using powers conferred by Articles 52 to 55F and 66(3) of the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and is subject to the draft affirmative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1 This Statutory Rule amends the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009 (the "2009 Order") in order to introduce changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO).

3. Background

3.1 Articles 52 to 55 of the 2003 Energy Order provide the framework for the introduction of an obligation (a 'renewables obligation') on electricity suppliers requiring them demonstrate the supply of electricity from renewable energy sources to consumers. The current detail of that obligation (the 'NIRO') which was introduced in 2005 is contained in the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009.

3.2 The proposed Rule will amend the 2009 Order by:

- Extending the lifetime of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation until 31 March 2037, allowing generators accrediting up until 31 March 2017 to receive the full 20 years support;
- Introducing a six month extension for biomass combined heat and power (CHP) projects seeking accreditation until 30 September 2015;
- Introducing a new band for closed landfill gas projects in 2015 at a ROC support level of 0.2 ROC/MWh;
- Introducing a new band for Waste Heat to Power for both open and closed landfill sites in 2015 at a ROC support level of 0.1 ROC/MWh;

- Reducing ROC support levels for large-scale technologies (above 5MW) including onshore wind, offshore wind, solar PV, hydro and anaerobic digestion;
- Reducing ROC support for solar PV above 250kW and the introduction of new bands for building-mounted and ground-mounted solar installations;
- Increasing ROC support for marine projects (wave and tidal) from the current 2 ROCs/MWh to 5 ROCs/MWh;
- Introducing a 6 month 'grace period' for large scale onshore wind;
- Amalgamating Advanced Conversion Technologies bands - (gasification and pyrolisis);
- Reducing support for standard co-firing and regular co-firing of bioliquids from 1 May 2013 until 1 April 2015.

The effect of these proposed amendments is described in more detail below.

Policy Objectives of the Statutory Rule

3.3 The proposed Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 has a number of objectives some of which are UK-wide and others are specific to Northern Ireland. The objectives are:

a) Extending the lifetime of the NIRO to 31 March 2037

DETI intends to extend the current lifetime of the NIRO from 2033 to 2037. This will align the end dates of all three ROs across the UK and gives assurance to Northern Ireland generators accrediting up until the 31 March 2017 that they will receive the full 20 years support.

b) Six month extension for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects

The recent consultation on changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) included a proposal, in line with the other two Renewables Obligations, to introduce CHP transition arrangements which would see the ending of the 0.5 ROC uplift for CHP projects after 31 March 2015. Instead, projects accrediting after this date would be required to take the relevant ROC level for electricity only generation together with the relevant Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) tariff in place at that time.

Work is currently underway in Northern Ireland to determine an appropriate RHI tariff for biomass over 1MW and whilst this is intended to be in place by 1 April 2015, the Department is unlikely to be in a position to consult on the proposed tariff before mid 2013. This presents a difficulty for large scale biomass CHP projects which are already in development or nearing financial close which may accredit after 1 April 2015 but do not have a clear indication of the appropriate RHI support level.

Given the longer lead in time to introduce a RHI tariff for large scale biomass in Northern Ireland, the Department is therefore proposing to introduce a six month extension of the current band until 30 September 2015 for CHP projects accrediting under the NIRO. In order to be eligible for the extension, projects must be commissioned and accredited under the NIRO by 30 September 2015.

c) New band for closed landfill gas projects in 2015

The band for open landfill gas sites will remain in place until 31 March 2015 after which it will close. There is a case for continued support to improve methane collection and electricity generation at closed landfill sites, based on the additional costs for closed sites. As such we intend to provide support at 0.2 ROCs/MWh for generating stations accrediting or additional capacity added from 1 April 2015, which use gas from closed landfill sites only.

d) New band for Waste Heat to Power for both open and closed landfill sites in 2015

Waste heat to power (WH2P) generates further electricity through an organic Rankine cycle process, giving up to 10% higher efficiency. It is particularly suited for sites such as landfill where CHP is not an option as there is no local heat customer. From a policy perspective the fitting of WH2P on new and existing landfill sites could be a cost-effective way of contributing to our renewables target, and would also make most efficient use of landfill gas resource.

Given the policy benefits of more efficient landfill gas generation and lack of deployment to date, it has been decided to introduce support at 0.1 ROCs/MWh for electricity generated by new WH2P from landfill gas. This support will be available to WH2P fitted after 31 March 2015 on both existing stations as well as new stations using gas from any landfill site.

e) Decrease in ROC support for large-scale technologies

Onshore wind

Large scale onshore wind will reduce from 1 ROC to 0.9 ROCs in line with the consultation proposal. However, this level is not guaranteed beyond 2013/14 as a UK-wide call for evidence is currently ongoing to determine if further reductions are necessary. The reduction in support is based on evidence of falling costs. It is expected that capital costs in this sector will continue to fall. Our understanding of costs is strongly evidenced and is based on extensive analysis of pricing expectations by generators, manufacturers and independent third parties.

Hydro

A reduced level of 0.5 ROC/MWh had been proposed for large scale hydro projects (from the current 1 ROC). This figure was based on the potential for further

development and capital costs based on economies of scale. However, following consultation, support will be reduced to 0.7 ROCs/MWh.

Offshore wind

Of all the renewable technologies, offshore wind offers the best scalable, mass deployable option and the costs of offshore wind are expected to fall as the technology develops and matures and as industry benefits from learning and economies of scale.

Under the current arrangements, offshore wind would receive 2 ROCs/MWh in 2013/14 and 1.5 ROCs/MWh from April 2014. It is intended to set the level of support for offshore wind at 2 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2014/15, reducing to 1.9 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2015/16 and 1.8 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2016/17.

Solar PV

Following the recent UK-wide, large scale solar PV consultation, it has been decided to establish two separate bands for solar PV under all three ROs, one band for building-mounted solar PV and the other band for ground-mounted solar PV.

Under current arrangements, solar PV up to 50kW receives 4 ROCs whilst solar PV above 50kW up to 250kW receives 2 ROCs. In line with the other two ROs, we are proposing that the following new ROC levels will apply to new accreditations and additional capacity added above 250kW.

For the building-mounted solar PV band, it has been decided to set the level of support at 1.7 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2013/14, reducing to 1.6 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2014/15 and then to 1.5 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2015/16 and 1.4 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2016/17.

For the ground-mounted solar PV band, it has been decided to set the level of support at 1.6 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2013/14, reducing to 1.4 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2014/15, 1.3 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2015/16 and 1.2 ROCs/MWh for new accreditations and additional capacity added in 2016/17.

4. Consultation

4.1 An initial 12 week statutory consultation on the proposals was carried out and concluded on 27 January 2012 with 48 responses received. A follow-up

consultation specifically on large scale solar PV and biomass sustainability and value for money was also undertaken in late 2012. Part A on solar PV and biomass was concluded on 4 December 2012 with 10 responses. Part B on biomass sustainability concluded on 15 January 2013 with 2 responses to DETI. The majority of the proposals in both consultations mirrored those set out in the consultation documents on the Renewables Obligation for England and Wales and the Renewables Obligation Scotland.

4.2 A full list of consultation responses can be viewed at http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-energy-consultations.htm

5. Equality Impact

5.1 The Renewables Obligation is a market-based mechanism whose rules apply in a non-discriminatory way to its participants. The proposed changes will not alter this position. It was therefore found that a full EQIA was not considered necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1 The size of the whole Northern Ireland electricity market within the UK is approximately 2.5% of total consumption and the relative costs and benefits associated with the changes must be seen within this context. The special arrangement that Northern Ireland has within the UK-wide operation of the Obligation means that the Obligation level imposed on suppliers here is much lower than that in GB and indeed is much lower than the actual renewables generation in NI. This restricts the impact of any changes to NIRO support levels on consumer costs. A Final Regulatory Impact Assessment can be viewed at http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-energy-index/deti-energy-sustainable/northern_ireland_renewables_obligation_.htm

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The NIRO is a market-led support mechanism through which the cost of providing support to renewable generators is borne by electricity consumers. There are no financial implications for DETI.

8. Section 24 of the NI Act 1998

8.1 This Rule does not contravene section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1 There are no associated EU implications. The Renewables Obligations (including the NIRO) are support measures implemented in line with recommendations of the EC Renewables Directive (EC/2001/77), but are not a mandatory requirement of the Directive.

9.2 It is also important to note that the amendments to the NIRO are subject to state aid clearance by the European Commission. This process is currently ongoing.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1 Similar legislation is being introduced in Great Britain in respect of the Obligations in Scotland and in England & Wales. It is proposed that the rule will be laid before the NI Assembly in March with the intention that it will come into operation with effect from 1 May 2013.

10.2 The main difference between the GB and NI legislation is around the proposed extension of the NIRO lifetime to 31 March 2037 and the introduction of a six month extension for Combined Heat & Power projects.

11. Additional information

11.1 Not applicable.

ENERGY DIVISION
Department Of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
March 2013

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RENEWABLES OBLIGATION (AMENDMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013
REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Title of proposal

Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

2. Introduction

This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) supports the implementation of the above Order which will introduce provisions for supporting the continued development of renewable electricity in Northern Ireland.

This Rule is made using powers conferred by Articles 52 to 55F and 66(3) of the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and is subject to the draft affirmative resolution procedure.

3. Purpose and intended effect

3.1 Objective

This Statutory Rule amends the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009 (the "2009 Order") to:

- Amend Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROC) levels across a range of technologies following a Banding Review for implementation in 2013; and
- Extend the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) from the current end date of 2033 to 2037.

3.2 Background

Articles 52 to 55 of the 2003 Energy Order provide the framework for the introduction of an obligation (a 'renewables obligation') on electricity suppliers requiring them to demonstrate the supply of electricity from renewable energy sources to consumers.

The NIRO is the Department's main policy measure for supporting the development of renewable electricity in Northern Ireland. Introduced on 1 April 2005, it has been subject to a number of amendments, the most recent in April 2011. The current legislation governing the NIRO is the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009 as amended by the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Renewables

Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011. The 2010 amendments included enhanced ROCs for electricity generated from onshore wind, hydro and solar photovoltaic (pv) technologies. The 2011 amendments increased ROC levels for electricity generated from anaerobic digestion.

The NIRO places a legal requirement on electricity suppliers to account for a specified and increasing proportion of their electricity as having been supplied from renewable sources or to pay a buy-out fee that is proportionate to any shortfall. Suppliers provide evidence of compliance by presenting ROCs which are issued to generators of renewable electricity for each unit of eligible output. The number of ROCs issued for each MWh varies depending on the technology and size involved.

3.3 Consultation

An initial 12 week statutory consultation on the proposals was carried out and concluded on 12 January 2012 with 48 responses received. A follow-up consultation specifically on large scale solar PV and biomass sustainability and value for money was also undertaken in late 2012. Part A on solar PV and biomass was concluded on 4 December 2012 with 10 responses. Part B on biomass sustainability concludes on 15 January 2013. The majority of the proposals in both consultations mirrored those set out in the consultation documents on the Renewables Obligation for England and Wales and the Renewables Obligation Scotland.

The NIRO consultation on banding levels and subsequent follow-up consultation on large scale solar PV and biomass included proposals specific to Northern Ireland a proposal to retain a level of 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015; introduce a 6 month grace period for combined heat and power (CHP) projects; and an extension to the NIRO end date from 2033 to 2037.

3.4 RO Impact Assessments

As the vast majority of proposed changes in the NIRO are in line with the proposals within the Renewables Obligation (RO) for England and Wales, the NIRO Impact Assessment should be read in conjunction with the Impact Assessments carried out for the RO consultations:

RO Banding Levels from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017 – Final Assessment

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

RO Large Scale Solar PV Banding Levels – Impact Assessment

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/ro_solarpv/ro_solarpv.aspx

RO Biomass Sustainability and Affordability – Impact Assessment

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/biomass_ro/biomass_ro.aspx

3.5 Intended Effect

The overall objective is to ensure that renewable electricity generation is appropriately incentivised in order to continue to contribute towards increasing energy security, decreasing carbon emissions, reducing reliance on imported fuels and helping to meet the NI Executive's Strategic Energy Framework target of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020. DETI aims to do this in a manner which is cost-effective to energy consumers, and in a way that is most compatible with government's other policy objectives.

It is important to note that any proposed changes in ROC levels and extension of the NIRO end date are subject to state aid clearance by the European Commission.

In addition to UK-wide banding changes, it is intended that the following actions contained in the proposed NIRO Amendment Order will contribute to Northern Ireland's renewable energy objectives:

Extension of NIRO duration to 2037

The extension to 31 March 2037 will ensure generators accrediting under the NIRO up until 31 March 2017 receive the full 20 years of support.

Retention of 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015

Northern Ireland is proposing to retain support at 1 ROC per megawatt hour for landfill gas projects until 31 March 2015. This band will close in 2013 in Great Britain.

Introduction of 6 month grace period for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects

Northern Ireland is proposing to introduce a six month grace period for CHP projects accrediting up to 30 September 2015, in order to provide ROC support in the absence of an RHI tariff.

4. Rationale for Government Intervention

The EU Renewables Directive commits the EU to meet 20% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020 with the UK's individual target at 15% (NI has set a target of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020). In order to meet this, government needs to support renewable electricity technologies, as current costs are higher than their conventional alternatives and deployment would not occur in the timescales required. Renewable technologies are also needed as part of the global effort to reduce emissions – the need for urgency and the risk of higher damage costs in the future underpin the need for action now. In the electricity sector new technologies can struggle to compete with conventional technologies and policies to support early stage development and bring costs down longer term is critical. The cost of deploying new technologies typically falls as volumes increase, supply chains are established and commitments to further expansion rise.

The market on its own will not deliver the required development and deployment of renewable technologies to achieve the UK's carbon reduction targets. This is because the carbon price is not yet high enough or certain enough to support these higher cost technologies, and there are market failures such as positive externalities from innovation, asymmetric information and uncertainty, and increasing returns to scale in the power sector.

Subject to Assembly procedure and State Aid approval, DETI plans to implement changes in April 2013 to make the NIRO more effective in contributing to our 2020 target.

5. Analysis of the options and the costs and benefits

Increase lifetime of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to 2037

All those that responded to the consultation on this issue supported the proposal to extend the NIRO to 2037 to bring it into line with the two Renewables Obligations in Great Britain thus ensuring that those generators accrediting up to 2017 receive the full 20 years of support. One respondent suggested an extension to 2042 and support increased from 20 to 25 years.

Options Considered

In order to extend to the NIRO end date to 2037, the options considered are (i) do nothing (ii) extend the NIRO end date to 2037 (preferred option); and (iii) extend the NIRO beyond 2037

(i) do nothing

Not extending the NIRO end date from 31 March 2033 to 31 March 2037 would keep the NIRO out of line with the other two ROs. It would also mean that any new stations accrediting after 1 April 2013 would not have the full 20 years of ROC support under the NIRO. This would have a significant effect on investment potential and could jeopardise the overall aims and principles of the NIRO.

(ii) extend the NIRO end date to 2037

This will not only give assurance to Northern Ireland generators accrediting up until the 31 March 2017 that they will receive the full 20 years support but will also align the end dates of all 3 ROs across the UK.

(iii) extend the NIRO beyond 2037

This brings Northern Ireland out of line with the other ROs and would generate additional cost to the consumer. In addition NI is proposing to introduce a small-scale Feed-In Tariff similar to the scheme currently operating in GB which will become the main mechanism for supporting renewable energy in NI.

Retention of 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015

Landfill gas is recognised as a mature and cost effective renewable technology in the UK, however it is less well developed in Northern Ireland. It was for this reason that Northern Ireland retained the 1 NIROC for landfill gas in 2010 when it was reduced to 0.25 ROCs in the rest of the UK following the introduction of banding in 2009. Northern Ireland currently has six landfill gas stations accredited under the NIRO with a combined installed capacity of just under 10MW which provide a significant contribution to our renewable energy targets.

Unlike the rest of the UK, where generation capacity is expected to reduce by more than half over the next 10 to 15 years as there is no further significant deployment potential, the position in Northern Ireland is different. In addition to the six stations already accredited there are another potential 11 sites with a combined capacity of approximately 8MW.

Consultation responses provided a mixed reaction to this proposal. Just over one third agreed with the decision to end RO support for landfill gas in 2015. One respondent suggested delaying closure until 2016 whilst several others recommended retaining the 1 ROC until 2017. Another suggestion put forward was to reduce support to 0.5 ROCs in 2015.

Options Considered

In order to retain the level of 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015, the options considered are (i) do nothing; (ii) retain 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015 (preferred option); and (iii) retain 1 ROC until 2017.

(i) do nothing

If Northern Ireland was to do nothing i.e. adopt the same position as the rest of the UK and close the landfill gas band to new accreditations from 1 April 2013, this would likely stop those remaining landfill gas sites in development resulting in a loss of non-intermittent generation.

(ii) (preferred option) retain 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015

Retaining the 1 ROC for landfill gas projects until 2015 will allow sufficient time for sites at various stages of development to attain accreditation by 1 April 2015.

(iii) retain 1 ROC to 2017

Evidence from the banding review would suggest that beyond 2015 any new landfill gas sites would not require any ROC support. As of the 31 March 2013, GB is closing ROC support for landfill gas sites. Retention beyond 2015 would add unnecessary cost to bill payers.

Introduction of 6 month grace period for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects

The recent consultation on changes to the NIRO included a proposal, in line with the other two Renewables Obligations, to introduce CHP transition arrangements which would see the ending of the 0.5 ROC uplift for CHP projects after 31 March 2015. Instead, projects accrediting after this date would be required to take the relevant ROC level for electricity only generation together with the relevant Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) tariff in place at that time.

Work is currently underway in Northern Ireland to determine an appropriate RHI tariff for biomass over 1MW and whilst this is intended to be in place by 1 April 2015, the Department is unlikely to be in a position to consult on the proposed tariff before mid 2013. This presents a difficulty for large scale biomass CHP projects which are already in development or nearing financial close which may accredit after 1 April 2015 but do not have a clear indication of the appropriate RHI support level.

Consultation responses on this proposal were supportive.

Options Considered

In order to introduce a 6 month grace period for CHP projects, the options considered are (i) do nothing, (ii) retain 0.5 ROC uplift until 2016 and (iii) Introduce a 6 month grace period for CHP projects until 30 September 2015 (preferred option).

(i) do nothing.

If nothing is done, there is a significant risk that CHP projects currently in development will not reach financial close as generators and investors do not have sight at present of the levels of the RHI tariff in 2015.

(ii) retain 0.5 ROC uplift until 2016.

Retaining the 0.5 ROC uplift for all of 2015/16 risks overcompensating generators.

(iii) (preferred option) introduce a 6 month grace period for CHP projects until 30 September 2015.

By the middle of 2013 we should have a clear idea of the likely levels for the RHI tariff and so it would not be necessary to retain the 0.5 ROC uplift for an additional year. In addition, there would ultimately be a cost to the consumer if the 0.5 ROC uplift was retained for an entire year.

Conclusion

The size of the whole Northern Ireland electricity market within the UK is approximately 2.5% of total consumption and the relative costs and benefits associated with the above options must be seen within this context.

The special arrangement that Northern Ireland has within the UK-wide operation of the Obligation means that the Obligation level imposed on suppliers here is lower than that in GB and lower than the actual renewables generation in NI, thus restricting the impact of the NIRO on consumer costs in Northern Ireland.

Competition Assessment

The NIRO is a market-based instrument that operates in a competitive market for electricity. It is open to all participants in renewable electricity generation. The way in which the NIRO recycles money from the buy-out fund should act as a positive incentive to competition between suppliers, and reduce barriers to entry for renewable electricity generators.

7. The Small Business Impact Test

The most significant impact of the NIRO on the majority of small businesses is likely to come from increased costs of electricity which are likely to represent a larger proportion of income for smaller companies, as they are less likely to have their own generation compared to larger industrial users with heavy electricity requirements. However, as the costs of the NIRO are spread across all UK consumers, the impact on NI consumers is minimised.

The amendments proposed in the Order will benefit those small businesses involved in renewable electricity generation through greater investor confidence arising from the extension to the lifetime of the NIRO, retention of ROC support for landfill gas and introduction of a 6 month grace period for CHP projects.

8. Environmental Impact and Sustainable Development

The NIRO is aimed at increasing the deployment of renewable electricity generation in order to move Northern Ireland away from fossil fuel dependency towards an economy less reliant on the often volatile price of such imported fossil fuels. As such it supports mitigation of climate change and more sustainable and secure energy. Individual projects supported under the NIRO that are deemed to have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts are required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (Directive 85/337/EEC) as part of the planning process. The NIRO includes sustainability reporting requirements for the use of biomass in electricity generation. Generators must report annually which helps inform policy on sustainable use of biomass for electricity generation.

9. Rural proofing

A large proportion of renewable energy is produced in rural areas and affects businesses involved in the generation of renewable energy and rural communities living in the vicinity of new developments. Increasing the proportion of energy from renewable sources will mean more renewable energy developments in rural areas. Certain forms of renewable development impact disproportionately on rural areas and there can be resistance to new

developments. However, any resistance needs to be viewed in the light of the need to increase renewable energy to meet longer term energy security goals and in order to tackle climate change. Although there has been no separate or explicit assessment of the needs of rural areas, the proposals are set within this wider policy context and aim to ensure that the impacts on consumers and their bills are reasonable.

Development of NIRO policy has been subject to extensive consultation. This has previously included business interests within the renewables sector and consumer interests. It has also included relevant rural business groups (including UFU) but has not sought to engage rural community groups in particular.

10. Enforcement and Sanctions

The NIRO is administered and enforced by Ofgem on behalf of NIAUR. Ofgem reports annually on their administration of the NIRO and conducts regular audits in relation to compliance with the NIRO.

11. Monitoring and Review

DETI is responsible for monitoring the impact of the NIRO on the development of renewable energy in Northern Ireland. Data received by Ofgem on biomass and bioliquids sustainability reporting will be provided to the Department.

Ministerial Sign-off

I have read the Regulatory Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that the benefits justify the costs.

Signed by the responsible Minister

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Date..... 10/1/13 .....

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